

The applicants for the 2014 Utah Visual Arts Fellowship presented a rich and varied range of creative production. Taken together, these artists demonstrated key values that are fundamental to a thriving artistic community: experimentation, ambition, reflection and great vision. Utah is home to painters, sculptors, printmakers and photographers; and it is also home to risk-takers and complex thinkers.

The two artists selected for this fellowship offer distinctive bodies of work that differ greatly from each other. **Wendy Wischer** works with immaterial elements like light and finds elaborate ways to make them concrete. She creates large-scale installations inspired in part by the natural landscape. Harnessing the majesty of this terrain is an ambitious aim, and she achieves this without falling into cliché or stereotype. She brings the scale of the big blue sky into the gallery and enables visitors to relate or respond to it in ways that are clever and beautiful.

**David Wolske** works on a much more intimate scale, producing delicate works on paper, often through moveable type and letterpress printing. He works with one of the oldest forms of artmaking and his relief prints demonstrate that there is strength and beauty when working in a more traditional medium. But, he also pushes the medium of printmaking in exciting new ways, urging it to interact with different technologies and experimenting with the different possibilities he might produce. The clean lines and simple shapes of his letters and words belie a complex approach to image making.

Both of these artists develop their work with a sensitivity and curiosity to explore each medium as far as they might take it. While one works with the natural environment and the other works with the basic elements of our language, each artist is turning to (as a source of inspiration and for subject matter) something universal and fundamental to all of us—and helping us to see that in a fresh, new way.

-- Nora Burnett Abrams, Associate Curator, MCA Denver